

Research and Study Skills

Research and study skills are very important in understanding informational texts. You can use specific parts of your textbooks to help you find the information you need. You can also use other resources to add to your information base.



Tips for Success

- Information on the same topic can appear in different places in a book.
- If the index topic you're looking for isn't there, check for similar or related words or topics.

USING AN ENCYCLOPEDIA INDEX

When researching a topic, the encyclopedia is a good place to get an overview. The **encyclopedia index** lists every reference to a topic in all the volumes of the encyclopedia. The index lists all the articles that mention a certain name or topic. The index uses boldfaced type to list the letter of the volume and the page number where the article can be found.

Acid dye

Dye (Synthetic Dyes) **D:320**

Acid rain **A:24**

Environmental Pollution (Other Kinds of Pollution) **E:260**

Rain (Variations in Rainfall) **R:144**

Water Pollution (Industrial Wastes) **W:108**

Acid test [geology]

Mineral (Other Identification Tests) **M:479**

- To compare the seriousness of acid rain with other types of pollution, such as air pollution, you might first check
 - Volume A, page 24.
 - Volume E, page 260.
 - Volume R, page 144.
 - Volume W, page 108.

1. ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D



Mark your answer choice by filling in the oval.

Now check to see whether you chose the correct answer.

- Volume A has the main article on acid rain, but it probably isn't the best place to compare kinds of pollution.
- This is the correct answer. This would be the best place to look first.
- This article focuses on rainfall, not water pollution.
- The emphasis here is on water pollution. It would be a good place to check second.

Test Practice

Look back at the encyclopedia index to answer questions 1–2.

1. (A) (B) (C) (D)
2. (A) (B) (C) (D)

1. For a general description of the causes and effects of acid rain, you would first check

- A. Volume A, page 24.
B. Volume E, page 260.
C. Volume R, page 144.
D. Volume W, page 108.

2. Which volume might be MOST LIKELY to have information on whether the amount of rainfall affects its acidity?

- A. Volume A
B. Volume E
C. Volume R
D. Volume W

USING A BOOK INDEX

After reading an encyclopedia article, you can use nonfiction books to research a topic in more depth. To find specific information in a book, go to the index first. The **index** is an alphabetical listing of topics covered in a book and all the pages in the book where the topic appears.

Here is the beginning of an index from a book about acid rain.

Acid deposition, 19
Acidity, 20–22
Acid rain
 composition, 19–20
 and crops, 46–47
 formation, 36–37
 and humans, 53–59
 and lakes, 51–53, 62–63,
 67–68, 70–71, 73–74, 78–80

 and laws, 16–19
 and monumental decay, 56–59
 in polar regions, 45–46
 and soil, 47–51
 and tap water, 65–66
 and trees, 40–42, 85–86, 92
Adirondack Mountains, 13–14, 51

Use the book index to answer questions 3–4.

3. (A) (B) (C) (D)
4. (A) (B) (C) (D)

3. To find out how acid rain affects our drinking water, you might refer to pages

- A. 16–19.
B. 45–46.
C. 65–66.
D. 78–80.

4. The Acid Precipitation Act of 1980, an early step to counter acid rain, might be mentioned on pages

- A. 16–19.
B. 53–59.
C. 13–14.
D. 78–80.

5. Which topics would you check in the index if you wanted to find out how acid rain affects the world's water supply?

USING THE COMPUTER CATALOG

Most libraries are replacing their card catalogs with **computer catalogs**. By typing in the topic you're researching, you can find out about the books in the library that might provide the information you need.

If you typed in acid rain, you might find these listings.

Author: Firestone, Julia
 Title: *The Challenge of Acid Rain*
 Publication: Chicago: Environment Publishers, 1998
 Description: 285 pp
 Call Number Material Status
 363.78 book on shelf

Author: Bright, Harvey
 Title: *Hard Rain Falling: An Illustrated Guide to the Ravages of Acid Rain*
 Publication: New York: Issues, Inc., 1992
 Description: 128 pp
 Call Number Material Status
 363.734 book on shelf

Editors: Windstrom, Lars *et. al.*
 Title: *Experimental Research on Acid Precipitation: Selected Readings*
 Publication: London: Science Associates, 1991
 Description: 456 pp
 Call Number Material Status
 363.731 book on shelf

Author: Gans, Gertie
 Title: *What You Can Do About Acid Rain*
 Publication: New York: Take Action Press, 1988
 Description: 64 pp
 Call Number Material Status
 363.732 book out on loan

Use the computer catalog listings to answer questions 6–9.

6. (A) (B) (C) (D)
 7. (A) (B) (C) (D)
 8. (A) (B) (C) (D)
 9. (A) (B) (C) (D)

6. Which book would PROBABLY have the most up-to-date factual information about acid rain?
 A. *The Challenge of Acid Rain*
 B. *Experimental Research on Acid Precipitation: Selected Readings*
 C. *Hard Rain Falling*
 D. *What You Can Do About Acid Rain*
7. Which book would PROBABLY contain the most technical information?
 A. *The Challenge of Acid Rain*
 B. *Experimental Research on Acid Precipitation: Selected Readings*
 C. *Hard Rain Falling*
 D. *What You Can Do About Acid Rain*
8. If you wanted dramatic visuals of the impact of acid rain, you might check
 A. *The Challenge of Acid Rain.*
 B. *Experimental Research on Acid Precipitation: Selected Readings.*
 C. *Hard Rain Falling.*
 D. *What You Can Do About Acid Rain.*
9. Which book is currently unavailable in the library?
 A. *The Challenge of Acid Rain*
 B. *Experimental Research on Acid Precipitation: Selected Readings*
 C. *Hard Rain Falling*
 D. *What You Can Do About Acid Rain*